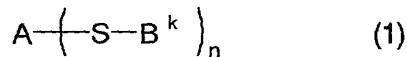


## CLAIMS

1. An optical material comprising at least one aromatic sulfide compound represented by the following formula (1):



5

wherein

n stands for an integer of from 2 to 12,

k stands for an integer of from 1 to n,

10 A represents a substituted or unsubstituted, n-valent carbocyclic aromatic ring or heterocyclic aromatic ring, and

15  $B^1$  to  $B^n$  each independently represent a substituted or unsubstituted, carbocyclic aromatic group or heterocyclic aromatic group.

20 2. An optical material according to claim 1, wherein in formula (1), n stands for an integer of from 2 to 4, and A is a substituted or unsubstituted, heterocyclic aromatic ring.

25 3. An optical material according to claim 2, wherein in formula (1),  $B^1$  to  $B^n$  each independently are a substituted or unsubstituted phenyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted pyrimidyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted naphthyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted thienyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted benzothiazolyl group, a substituted or

unsubstituted benzoxazolyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted thiadiazolyl group, or a substituted or unsubstituted thiazolyl group.

4. An optical material according to claim 2,

5 wherein in formula (1), A is a divalent heterocyclic aromatic ring selected from a substituted or unsubstituted thiophene ring, a substituted or unsubstituted thiophene-1,1-dioxide ring, a substituted or unsubstituted thiophenethiadiazole ring, a substituted or unsubstituted thieno[3,2,-b]thiophene ring, a substituted or unsubstituted triazine ring, or a substituted or unsubstituted pyrimidine ring.

10

5. An optical material according to claim 4,

15 wherein in formula (1), B<sup>1</sup> to B<sup>n</sup> each independently are a substituted or unsubstituted phenyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted pyrimidyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted naphthyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted thienyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted benzothiazolyl group, a substituted or 20 unsubstituted benzoxazolyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted thiadiazolyl group, or a substituted or unsubstituted thiazolyl group.

6. An optical material according to claim 2,

25 wherein in formula (1), A is a trivalent heterocyclic aromatic ring selected from a substituted or unsubstituted thiophene ring, a substituted or

unsubstituted triazine ring, or a substituted or unsubstituted pyrimidine ring.

7. An optical material according to claim 6,  
wherein in formula (1),  $B^1$  to  $B^n$  each independently are a  
5 substituted or unsubstituted phenyl group, a substituted or  
unsubstituted pyrimidyl group, a substituted or  
or unsubstituted naphthyl group, a substituted or  
unsubstituted thienyl group, a substituted or  
unsubstituted benzothiazolyl group, a substituted or  
10 unsubstituted benzoxazolyl group, a substituted or  
unsubstituted thiadiazolyl group, or a substituted or  
unsubstituted thiazolyl group.

8. An optical material according to claim 2,  
wherein in formula (1), A is a tetravalent heterocyclic  
aromatic ring selected from a substituted or  
unsubstituted thiophene ring or a substituted or  
unsubstituted thieno[3,2,-b]thiophene ring.

9. An optical material according to claim 8,  
wherein in formula (1),  $B^1$  to  $B^n$  each independently are a  
substituted or unsubstituted phenyl group, a substituted or  
unsubstituted pyrimidyl group, a substituted or  
unsubstituted naphthyl group, a substituted or  
unsubstituted thienyl group, a substituted or  
unsubstituted benzothiazolyl group, a substituted or  
unsubstituted benzoxazolyl group, a substituted or  
unsubstituted thiadiazolyl group, or a substituted or

unsubstituted thiazolyl group.

10. An optical material according to claim 1,  
wherein in formula (1), n stands for an integer of from 2  
to 6, and A is a substituted or unsubstituted,  
5 carbocyclic aromatic ring.

11. An optical material according to claim 10,  
wherein in formula (1), B<sup>1</sup> to B<sup>n</sup> each independently are a  
substituted or unsubstituted phenyl group, a substituted  
or unsubstituted pyrimidyl group, a substituted or  
10 unsubstituted naphthyl group, a substituted or  
unsubstituted thiaryl group, a substituted or  
unsubstituted benzothiazolyl group, a substituted or  
unsubstituted benzoxazolyl group, a substituted or  
unsubstituted thiadiazolyl group, or a substituted or  
15 unsubstituted thiazolyl group.

12. An optical material according to claim 10,  
wherein in formula (1), A is a divalent carbocyclic  
aromatic ring selected from a substituted or  
unsubstituted benzene ring, a substituted or  
20 unsubstituted naphthalene ring, a substituted or  
unsubstituted fluorene ring, or a substituted or  
unsubstituted biphenyl group.

13. An optical material according to claim 12,  
wherein in formula (1), B<sup>1</sup> to B<sup>n</sup> each independently are a  
25 substituted or unsubstituted phenyl group, a substituted or  
unsubstituted pyrimidyl group, a substituted or

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unsubstituted naphthyl group, a substituted or  
unsubstituted thiienyl group, a substituted or  
unsubstituted benzothiazolyl group, a substituted or  
unsubstituted benzoxazolyl group, a substituted or  
5       unsubstituted thiadiazolyl group, or a substituted or  
unsubstituted thiazolyl group.

14. An optical material according to claim 10,  
wherein in formula (1), A is a trivalent carbocyclic  
aromatic ring selected from a substituted or  
10      unsubstituted benzene ring or a substituted or  
unsubstituted fluorene ring.

15. An optical material according to claim 14,  
wherein in formula (1), B<sup>1</sup> to B<sup>n</sup> each independently are a  
substituted or unsubstituted phenyl group, a substituted  
15      or unsubstituted pyrimidyl group, a substituted or  
unsubstituted naphthyl group, a substituted or  
unsubstituted thiienyl group, a substituted or  
unsubstituted benzothiazolyl group, a substituted or  
unsubstituted benzoxazolyl group, a substituted or  
20      unsubstituted thiadiazolyl group, or a substituted or  
unsubstituted thiazolyl group.

16. An optical material according to claim 10,  
wherein in formula (1), A is a tetravalent carbocyclic  
aromatic ring selected from a substituted or  
25      unsubstituted benzene ring or a substituted or  
unsubstituted biphenyl group.

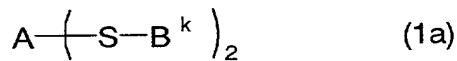
17. An optical material according to claim 16, wherein in formula (1), B<sup>1</sup> to B<sup>n</sup> each independently is a substituted or unsubstituted phenyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted pyrimidyl group, a substituted or 5 unsubstituted naphthyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted thienyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted benzothiazolyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted benzoxazolyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted thiadiazolyl group, or a substituted or 10 unsubstituted thiazolyl group.

18. An optical material according to claims 1 to 17, which is a polymer optical fiber material.

19. An optical part comprising a polymer optical fiber material according to claim 18.

20. An optical part according to claim 19, which is a GI polymer optical fiber.

21. An aromatic sulfide compound represented by the following formula (1a):



20 wherein

k stands for an integer of from 1 to 2,

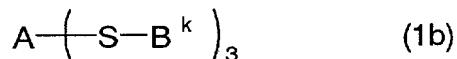
A represents a divalent carbocyclic aromatic ring or heterocyclic aromatic ring selected from a substituted or unsubstituted benzene ring, a substituted or 25 unsubstituted naphthalene ring, a substituted or

unsubstituted fluorene ring, a substituted or  
 unsubstituted biphenyl ring, a substituted or  
 unsubstituted thiophene ring, a substituted or  
 unsubstituted thiophene-1,1-dioxide ring, a substituted  
 5 or unsubstituted thiophenethiadiazole ring, a substituted  
 or unsubstituted thieno[3,2,-b]thiophene ring, a  
 substituted or unsubstituted triazine ring, or a  
 substituted or unsubstituted pyrimidine ring, and

B<sup>1</sup> to B<sup>n</sup> each independently represent a carbocyclic

10 aromatic group or heterocyclic aromatic group selected  
 from a substituted or unsubstituted phenyl group, a  
 substituted or unsubstituted pyrimidyl group, a  
 substituted or unsubstituted naphthyl group, a  
 substituted or unsubstituted thienyl group, a substituted  
 15 or unsubstituted benzothiazolyl group, a substituted or  
 unsubstituted benzoxazolyl group, a substituted or  
 unsubstituted thiadiazolyl group, or a substituted or  
 unsubstituted thiazolyl group.

22. An aromatic sulfide compound represented by  
 20 the following formula (1b):



wherein

k stands for an integer of from 1 to 3,

A represents a trivalent carbocyclic aromatic ring  
 25 or heterocyclic aromatic ring selected from a substituted

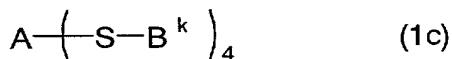
or unsubstituted benzene ring, a substituted or unsubstituted fluorene ring, a substituted or unsubstituted thiophene ring, a substituted or unsubstituted triazine ring, or a substituted or unsubstituted pyrimidine ring, and

5           B<sup>1</sup>, B<sup>2</sup> and B<sup>3</sup> each independently represent a carbocyclic aromatic group or heterocyclic aromatic group selected from a substituted or unsubstituted phenyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted pyrimidyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted naphthyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted thienyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted benzothiazolyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted benzoxazolyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted thiadiazolyl group, or a substituted or unsubstituted thiazolyl group.

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23. An aromatic sulfide compound represented by the following formula (1c):



wherein

20           k stands for an integer of from 1 to 4,

              A represents a carbocyclic aromatic ring or heterocyclic aromatic ring selected from a substituted or unsubstituted benzene ring, a substituted or unsubstituted biphenyl ring, a substituted or unsubstituted thiophene ring, a substituted or

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unsubstituted thieno[3,2,-b]thiophene ring, and

$B^1$ ,  $B^2$ ,  $B^3$  and  $B^4$  each independently represent a carbocyclic aromatic group or heterocyclic aromatic group selected from a substituted or unsubstituted phenyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted pyrimidyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted naphthyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted thiienyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted benzothiazolyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted benzoxazolyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted thiadiazolyl group, or a substituted or unsubstituted thiazolyl group.